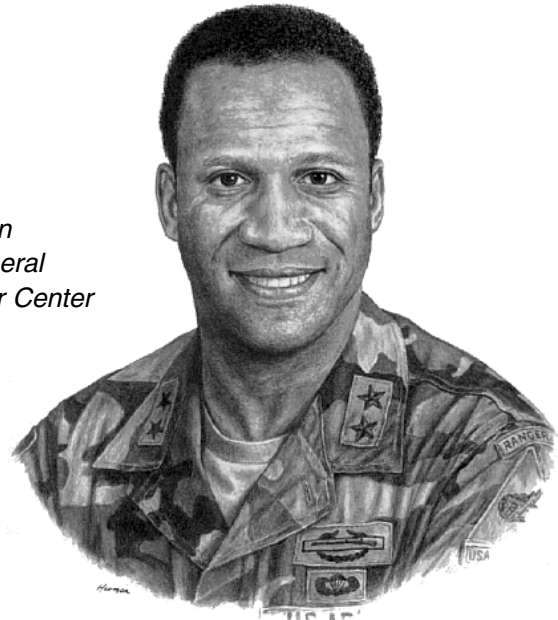


# COMMANDER'S HATCH

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*MG Larry R. Jordan  
Commanding General  
U.S. Army Armor Center*



## Change in the Mounted Force

The most enduring characteristic of the Mounted Force is change. The theme of the 1995 Armor Conference, "Victory Then, Victory Now, Victory Tomorrow: The Mounted Force 1945-2005," spoke powerfully to that change. While the entire Army is in the midst of tremendous transformations as it moves towards Force XXI, it is perhaps the Mounted Force that most reflects fundamental shifts in the way we are organized, equipped, and trained. The Armor Conferences of 1993 and 1994 addressed issues of Force XXI and digitization of the battlefield. Central were presentations on digital equipment, expanded capabilities, Information Operations, and Advanced Warfighting Experiments. This year we sought to focus on training and leader development. We did this to highlight the fact that the real goal of Force XXI is to train more skilled and capable soldiers, and to develop and equip leaders who can make better, faster, more in-

formed decisions and execute them superbly. Force XXI is using technology, innovation, and initiative to best leverage the skill and courage of our people. That is where we truly enhance our combat power and potential.

The change that enabled the Mounted Force to contribute to victory in World War II, to victory in the Cold War and DESERT STORM, and to victories yet played out, was or will be the result of leaders and soldiers who are willing to try new and innovative approaches. Success in this area depends on a dose of audacity, combined with a focus on warfighting, a healthy respect for the traditions and history of our Force, a willingness to take prudent risk, and thorough grounding in the fundamentals of our profession.

I am proud to have been a part of the tremendous changes that have involved the Home of Mounted Warfare for the past three years. First as Assistant

Commandant, and then as Chief of Armor, I was privileged to serve with outstanding soldiers and leaders who made a lasting difference in the way we are organized to train, the way we conduct training, and the doctrine, tactics, procedures, and equipment that is the subject of that training.

In this last column I will pen for the Commander's Hatch, I would ask that you maintain the pride and esprit, the professional curiosity, the intellectual energy, and the standards of excellence that make ours the best Mounted Force in the world. Embrace change that is good and needed, hold fast those things from our past which define us, and keep both combat readiness and soldiers uppermost. Change at the leadership of the Home of Mounted Warfare is a part of the continued growth and progression. There are plenty of targets left to engage as we strive to enter the 21st Century. ON THE WAY!